



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

*P.O. Box 47450 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7450*

*<http://dor.wa.gov>*

*Welcome to Washington!*

The Washington State Department of Revenue has designed this handbook to help you get off to a good start as a new business. It will introduce you to our services and help you better understand your state tax obligations.

Nearly three-quarters of the state funds used for basic education, higher education, human services and natural resources come from state taxes. The largest percentage of those funds come from the business and occupation, retail sales and use taxes — taxes reported by business owners and remitted to the Department of Revenue.

Because Washington's tax system relies on voluntary compliance, the quality of life and services we enjoy depend on everyone paying their fair share. The high voluntary compliance rate of Washington State excise taxpayers, estimated at 94 percent, is the shared success of a cooperative effort between taxpayers and the Department of Revenue.

Just as business owners are responsible for reporting and paying state tax obligations, we have a responsibility to give you the information and assistance you need to correctly report and pay your taxes. We take that responsibility seriously.

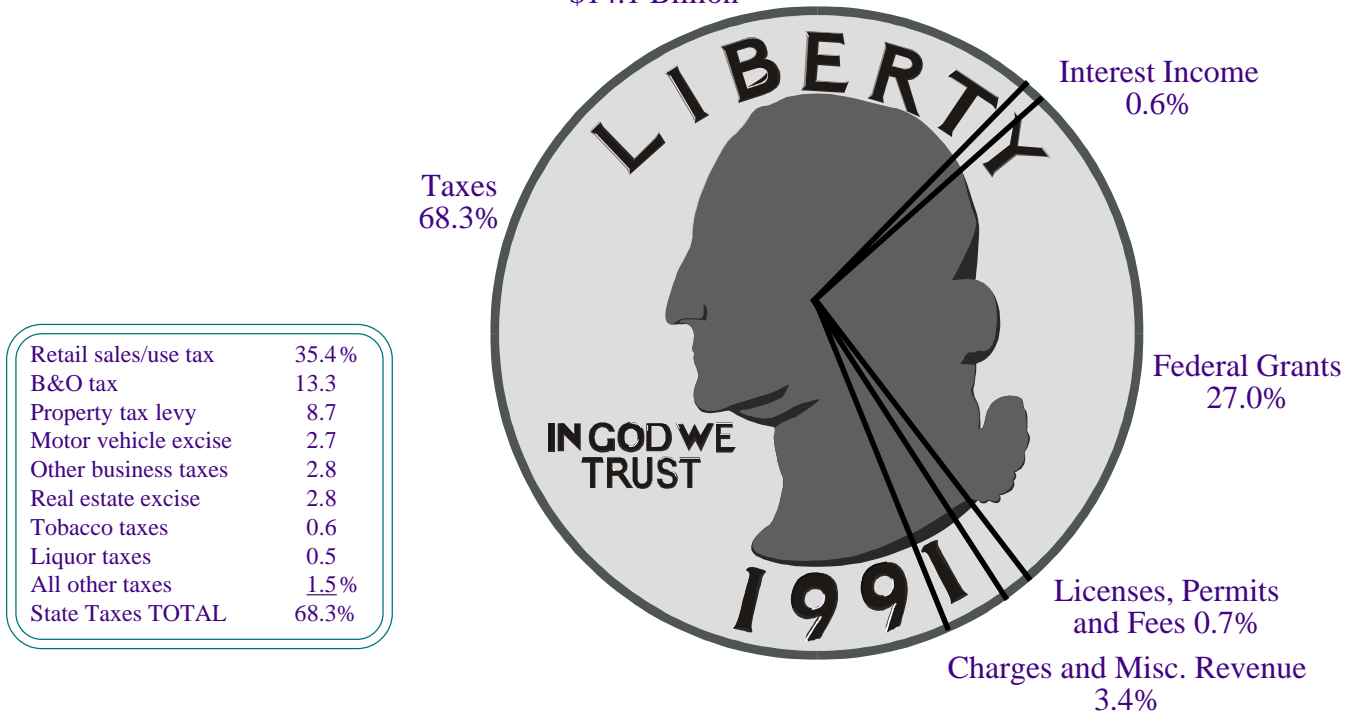
The following information provides a general overview of Washington's tax structure. For complete instructions on how to fill out your return, refer to the Department of Revenue's *Guide to Completing the Washington State Combined Excise Tax Return*. If you have questions or need help, please call or visit one of our local offices. Among other services, they host regular New Business Outreach Workshops offering information on reporting and recordkeeping requirements. You may also refer to the service directory in this handbook for information on the Department of Revenue's taxpayer education programs and phone numbers to call for assistance.

Good luck in your new venture.

We invite you to visit our Internet site at: <http://dor.wa.gov>

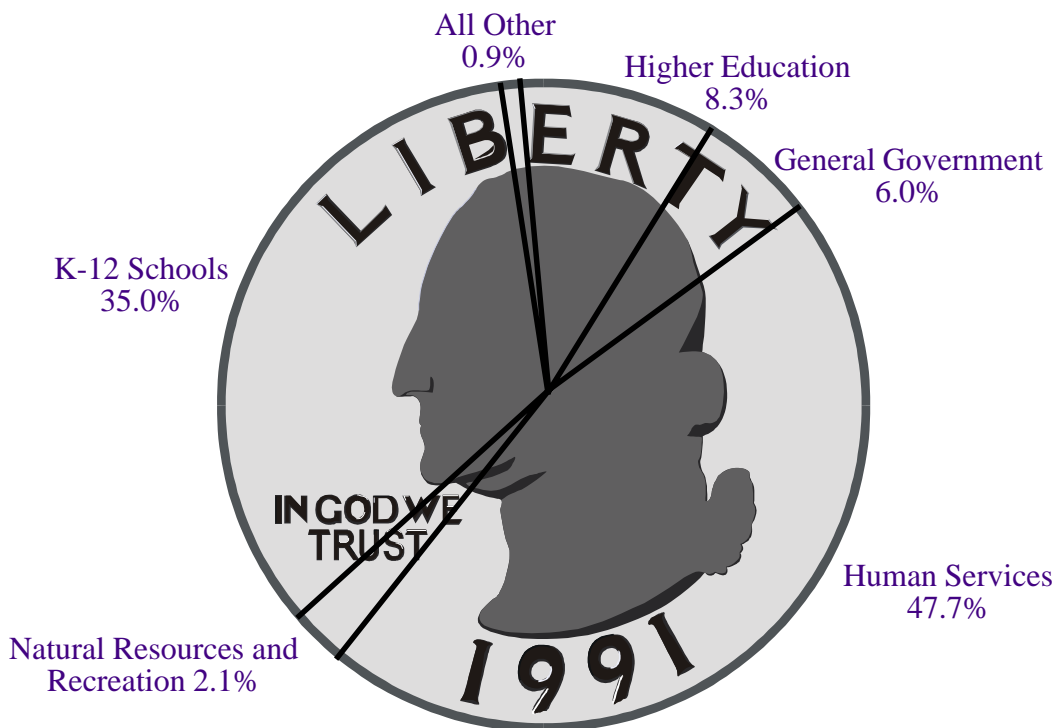
## Where the Tax Money Comes From

Fiscal Year 1998 State General Fund Revenues  
\$14.1 Billion



## Where the Tax Money Goes

Fiscal Year 1998 State General Fund Expenditures  
\$13.3 Billion



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